

CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION

MINUTES — June 30, 2004 Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Gary Smith, Julie Barnfather, Kris Colt, Glenn Eades, Sue Chena ult (arrived at 7:45 p.m.)

ABSENT: Maureen McCoy, Ken Bechmann

CITY STAFF: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Linda Gorremans, Parks Planning; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

AUDIENCE: None

*Note: **Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.***

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:10 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of May 26, 2004 RTC minutes as submitted by:
Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Barnfather

Motion carried: Unanimous 4-0

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None present

IV. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS

A. Handouts

The following articles were given as informational:

- *Trails Mean Business*: A Rails to Trails article
- American Hiking Society: Confirmation letter for registering National Trails Day event
- San Diego 5-year Strategic Plan with an emphasis on trails: Cox noted that San Diego has been successful in recovering railroad tracks and converting them into trolley service.
- American Trails: Web site printout of Benefits of Trails and Greenways, and Economic Impacts of Trails

B. Comprehensive Plan Parks Chapter Summary

Cox referenced a cover memo from Sarah Stiteler, Senior Planner, for the draft policies of the Parks, Recreation, and Arts Element of the Comprehensive Plan—the proposed Comp Plan amendments. The memo states that the Planning Commission will initiate review at their second meeting in July. Parks' staff will meet with Ms. Stiteler on July 1 to review the policy.

Section D covers Trails Policies. Cox noted the multi-use trail definition was removed and inserted into the PRO Plan, the implementing document of the policies. ***Cox invited Commissioners to email him if they noted any errors or had questions with this draft.*** If staff was not successful in bringing about RTC's requested changes, a RTC representative could appear at the Planning Commission session to make their wishes known.

Eades had these edits for staff to consider:

- Page 1, first paragraph, "green character": This wording seemed odd, not fitting.
- Page 1, second paragraph, "noted for their water quality": Insert an adjective to describe the type of water quality.
- Page 1, last paragraph: Wording is construed to be all about bicycling. Alternatively, could delete "bike paths" and add "a variety of paths"; or, "a system of bike paths and variety of trails."

Smith asked about the service standards listed on page 4. Cox clarified that these standards were adopted by the City, and Council has no inclination to change them, nor does Park Board. Eades objected to ".25 miles of trails per 1,000 people," because in reality if it was applied, there would be gaps in the trail system. Barnfather suggested adding verbiage that would take into account the issue of trail connections. Smith noted it states "minimum level."

Cox invited Commissioners to contact Stiteler with their comments within the next two weeks.

V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Youth Advocate Position

Smith reported there is one youth applicant interested in the RTC youth advocate position. Colt stated that a second youth expressed interest early on, but possibly had not turned in the application. Smith believed there were two scheduled for interview. Smith and McCoy will interview the applicants on July 8, at 5:00 p.m. Colt may possibly join them at the interview appointment.

B. National Trails Day – June 5, 2004

Smith and Colt reported the National Trails Day event was “quiet,” with the weather not being as sunny and warm as last year. Gorremans asked whether or not it was a worthwhile event, did they accomplish what they intended, would they do it again, and would they change it if they did.

Colt reported:

- The kayaks were popular.
- Most contacts came from Seattle, and wanted King County connection information.
- Not many locals stopped.
- Most users were headed to Marymoor Park and the SR 520 trail.
- Some were interested in the City map for a break into town.
- Materials were adequate. King County maps were hot; Bicycle Open House Rally information was not easily accessible.

Smith reported:

- No RTC sign to identify who they were.
- In spite of contacting Jamie Straus-Clark two times at the City’s public affairs, the event was not advertised in the papers. Cox noted the City could have done a press release, but it is the individual paper’s prerogative to put it in or not. ***Cox will investigate this.***
- Park Operations’ support was very good.
- Received a lot of positive testimony from users for trails in Redmond.
- The kayaks were a nice feature.

- Smith, Colt, and Bechmann saw about 20 people each, including two equestrians, totaling approximately 60 contacts.

Eades stated a sign is needed on the trail to inform users that they are in the City of Redmond; there is only a small sign that says "City Hall."

Colt and Smith believed the event was worth doing, and advocated doing it again. Cox suggested the Commission could tie into some regional events next year. Eades suggested tying in with bicycle events next year. But he also proposed just putting up a booth and not troubling staff.

Smith asked Commissioners if they were interested in work parties, promotions, food give-aways, etc., for next year. Eades commented regarding work parties, as various agencies have stated, that they are a great deal of cost and little is accomplished unless they are tied in through an organization such as the Washington Trails Association. However, he did not advocate work parties for National Trails Day.

Gorremans noted that RTC registered the event with the American Hiking Society, who had sent out a survey to the group as a whole.

Smith will complete the survey and forward it to Gorremans.

C. Evans Creek Trail Report

Gorremans reported that OHNO Construction had the lowest bid of \$1.5 million for the Evans trail from 95th Street to Union Hill (with a third of the trail elevated). However, following award of the bid, OHNO contacted the City stating they had underbid by \$300,000, and that it should have been \$1.8 million. The City had \$1.2 million allocated to the project, then \$300,000 was added to meet the original \$1.5 million bid, which now was not enough. City Council reviewed the matter and the project had to be altered.

Gorremans reported the decision was that Parametrix would restructure the project to be built in phases. On July 14, 2004, bids will go out again, with Council awarding the lowest bid at their August 17 meeting. All but the elevated trail across Union Shares will be built so the IAC grant can be used. Estimated cost, approximately \$800,000 to \$1 million. Then in 2005, Parks and Recreation will add another \$300,000 of CIP money into the project and issue another bid to finish the elevated trail across Union Shares.

Gorremans explained the higher price was due to the escalated price of steel as well as asphalt (high oil costs). The scope has been reduced to something affordable: the first phase (70%) built in summer/fall 2004, and the last phase (30%) finished in 2005.

D. PRO Plan Report

Cox showed Commissioners a copy of the PRO Plan report, noting its content was not that much different from the third draft shown last time. Graphics have been significantly articulated and appendices were attached. In addition to hard bound copies, staff is working to get the Plan on the City's web site, and it may also be available on CD.

Cox showed larger maps/graphics that came from the 11" x 17" maps included in the PRO Plan. He referenced the PIP, which highlights projects proposed in certain years, and are coded by acquisition, development, and restoration.

Gorremans noted the PRO Plan is not complete; it needs pagination, and other finalizing work, but it has been adopted. The IAC has reviewed the Plan and it meets the state standards, so the grant will be issued.

Cox will forward a hard copy to all upon completion to all.

E. Parks and Human Services Committee Meeting Report

Eades referenced the minutes from the PHSC meeting, specifically Councilmember Pat Vaché's comments regarding attention to the City's trail system connections. Eades believed RTC should view this comment as an "open door" and capitalize on Vaché's observations and advocacy. He asked Commissioners to consider responding to and/or contacting Vaché. He noted the PHSC would be discussing trail connections at their next meeting, July 22, at 4:00 p.m.

Staff offered to respond to Vaché. Cox will emphasize trail connections are being made. He will clear up misconceptions, highlight RTC's accomplishments in influencing partnerships with the private side, and also give CIP information.

Cox noted that Boards and Commissions are always welcome at the PHSC meetings. ***Eades volunteered to attend the July 22 meeting; Colt would possibly attend.*** Colt agreed that because the Commission is looking at all avenues for connector trails, this would be RTC's opportunity. Smith suggested bringing a map to the meeting.

A Commissioner will contact Councilmember Vaché and let him know they will be there at the meeting.

F. York Bridge Report

Gorremans gave an update on the joint City and King County York Bridge project. Steve Gibbs is the project manager. The project will go out to bid the first of 2005. Presently, there is not enough money; however, if funds can be obtained, then construction would begin in May or June, 2005. Cox confirmed that the trail connections were there, both north/south and east/west. Gorremans showed Commissioners the County's three architectural bridge drawings of the plan, highlighting the trail connections. Smith offered additional plans detailing the kayak launching area for Commissioners to review, if interested.

G. Sammamish River Bridge Report

Gorremans reported that the Sammamish River bridge is under construction, with the bridge in place. Eades stated he was told the opening/dedication would be July 7, at 2:00 p.m.; the PBAC would be attending. Cox believed, however, that the dedication may have been delayed. ***He will send an email to Commissioners to confirm.***

H. PSE Trail Walks

- **Paved trail from SR 202 west to the Sammamish River Trail (SRT):** Gorremans has unofficially heard that the TEA-21 grant to fund the SRT to SR202 was not awarded. She surmised the project may not have matched the criteria of the grant, which was "to enhance an urban center." She also thought that PSRC could be drawing from the TEA-21 funds with its 5-year study on the BNSF from Renton to Snohomish. She noted the City is attempting to segregate the portion of track in which the City is interested. The City would not be part of the PSRC survey; rather, the City would proceed with its own study, especially the one-mile section within the downtown from Bear Creek to 95th Street.

Eades noted the subject of a trolley is still being discussed at the PHSC meetings. Cox added that rails and trails scenarios do exist in a number of places, but no substance involving a trolley has emerged as yet.

- **Sammamish River Trail to Willows:** On Monday evening (6/28/04), Smith, Barnfather, Colt, Eades, Arnie Tomac, John Harrington, and

Bertha Eades walked the SRT to Willows and westward. They walked from the parking lot north of 95th, east to the hard surface trail of PSE, to 100th, and then branched off exploring different areas.

Smith gave Commissioners a handout of Objectives, reviewing the area coverage and observations. The objective was to scout out a feasibility study, emphasizing the need to get RTC imprint in terms of the objectives, primarily focusing on the east/west connection (hard surface). Ideas were also generated for the north/south connection (soft surface). The handout would provide direction, and **staff offered to include a cover letter.**

Cox reported he would be recasting in the next budget cycle for the money to do this project. He will check with Dave Alm regarding the carryover cash amount of the Bike-Ped Committee (PBAC). He noted the south route continues within the PSE corridor, and then a bisecting corridor takes it south to Willows Creek Park.

Smith will send the draft Objectives to PBAC. Cox noted the cover letter would make an official request to PBAC for transferring of funds to this project.

Cox asked Commissioners to keep in mind the area west of the Research Park is the Native Growth Protection easement. One of the few allowed is the use of trails, however, it is private property (commercial owners below). Eades stated a consultant could ferret out that information, implications, re-alignment, etc. Barnfather added that tax benefits (i.e., the King County Benefit Rating System) could be extended to commercial property if they opened their land to a public trail. Cox noted some commercial land owners are receptive and some are not.

Cox stated that staff has the notion that the trail built by Willows Commerce II (at Willows) up to a certain point would remain within PSE and go south, then head west from there, as it is a less steep portion. Negotiating with PSE may be more practical than with commercial owners. Cox also reported that Kirkland is proposing a link to Redmond's PSE east/west right-of-way corridor.

Smith asked for Commissioners to volunteer to hike the area during the summer months. He asked staff for overview maps of the area. **Cox will follow up with the maps.** Smith pointed out that the money that would fund this feasibility study has funded the Redmond Trail Crossing study by Parametrix. **He asked Cox to make**

reference to that in the cover letter of appeal; Cox will make the reference.

Smith asked staff whether financial support could be gained from Natural Resources and to inquire if they have any plans to enhance wetland streams (those areas found in the southwest extension of the PSE). ***Staff will investigate.***

Barnfather asked if the trail could go farther north than 100th Street. Smith responded that a mountain bike trail would be the only opportunity there. Cox clarified that the consultant would look at the entire area north to 124th to address all options.

Cox thought support could come from ownership identification from the Rose Hill/Willows neighborhood study. Smith concurred to include it in the strategy, i.e., to concentrate on getting the one east/west hard surface trail up the slope while considering alternative alignments. Cox explained that staff would define the scope of work, and the consultant would redefine it as options or obstacles present.

Eades reported that Councilperson Nancy McCormick was pleased that the PBAC and RTC were working together in the Rose Hill-Willows trail project.

I. Charlier Invitation – July 2004

Gorremans sent Charlier an invitation for the RTC July meeting. She has not received a response as yet. Commissioners had requested Charlier make a brief presentation of the non-motorized component of the Transportation Master Plan, so RTC could provide feedback to Charlier. Commissioners could provide support if they understood the component more clearly.

J. Open House for Transportation Master Plan Discussion

Gorremans presented a handout of east/west and north/south missing links in the proposed bicycle system. At the Bicycle Open House for the TMP, corridors were voted on and projects were ranked in priority, while coding numbers and letters to the map. Another map of proposed primary and secondary bicycle corridors was also distributed. Cox noted that the discussion on missing links was placed in the context of bikes, not all users.

K. FM to Watershed Missing Link - Update

Chenault requested staff and Commissioners get back on track, communicating with King County, regarding the missing link to the Watershed from Farrel-McWhirter Park. Gorremans stated that Faith Rowland is the King County Property (acquisition) Manager, and the County trails contact person. ***Commissioners agreed that they would contact Rowland on a monthly basis (one Commissioner to contact the County per month). Gorremans will email Rowland's phone number to Commissioners.***

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:

Wednesday, July 28, 2004

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

7:00 p.m.